High School Observation

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During my High School observation, I was able to observe in the Social Studies classroom. I went in on one of the days the students were starting to do current events. The students will use the laptops to find current events for the day and then they will write a brief summary about it. Once they write their summary they will present their current event to the class. The teacher first modeled how to look for current events and what sites he would like them to use to find their current event. They spent the class time going to the different websites and talking about different things they could use as a current event. The teacher also went over what was expected of their summary and presentation.

The next time I went to the classroom and observed, the students again had the laptops and were doing their current events. The students each found a current event using the internet and then they wrote a short summary before presenting it to the class. The students used a variety of sources, online newspapers, magazines, and news stations.

One of the weeks I was observing in the High School was also the week of the 50th anniversary of JFK’s death. The Social Studies class had been doing a variety of activities and having discussions on JFK and his death. On the day I was in the classroom they were looking at a time line of his death. There were a variety of slides that went through, on each slide they would stop and discuss what was going on in the photo and what the students thought the relevance of the photo was. It was interesting to note that the year on the photos was wrong, they referenced the year to be 2013 when the photos were taken. The teacher used this a time to talk to the students about what you see on the Web is not always true. Yes, they knew the photos were actual photos that were from the week of JFK’s death since they were photos that had been published over the years, but the year had been written wrong. This brought a lot of discussion about things that can be misprinted on the web. It was a great discussion on finding research on the web and what are creditable sources.

The last observation I did was in a classroom that was doing a review for a test. The teacher had created a review for the students on the Smart Board. The students were divided into two teams and for each slide one group would get a chance to answer it, if they were unable to answer it correctly the other team got a chance at it. The students were very quiet at first, but once they got to going they become very competitive. The teacher said this was something new they had tried and will try to continue to do the review game in the future since the students seemed to enjoy it.

After doing my observations in the High School I was a little disappointed because it was hard to find times to go and do an observation when technology was being used. There are many opportunities for technology to be used in classrooms, but I feel that our teachers are not pushed to find ways to incorporate it. Our administration does not advocate for the use of technology.

I have asked a couple questions about technology to administration but feel like they brush it to the side. They say we have so many other things we are working on right now. I do not realize that technology is a component of Common Core and we will have to incorporate it. Technology is more than having computers and laptops to take the assessments on.